

Algona High School

Edited by: Jeni Zeller and Hannah Kadow

March 26, 2010

Runners to your mark: girls' track has begun

Molly Cook

The Algona girls' track team started their season off by going to the track meet at Iowa State University on Monday, March 15th. A select few runners were chosen to run in this meet. Brandee Hockett got sixth place in 100 meter hurdles.

The girls continued their season with the Indoor Mankato meet on Saturday, March 20th. The entire team traveled to participate in the

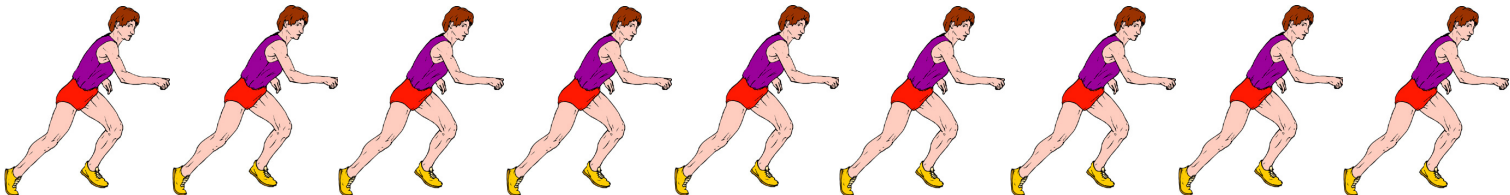
meet. The Shuttle Hurdle Relay of Brandee Hockett, JoHanna Degen, Tayler Cink, and Ashley Norland placed first with a time of 43.25 seconds. Rachel Teague placed first in the 400 meter dash with a time of 67.42 seconds, and Brandee Hockett placed first in 100 meter hurdles with a time of 9.71 seconds. Brandee was a State qualifier last year in the 100 meter hurdles. The sprint medley relay of

Brandee Hockett, Ashley Norland, Tawny Schultz, and Jade Simpson placed first with a time of 2:04.42. Second place finishes went to Chyan Metzger in the 100 meter dash, the Distance Medley team of Heather Rusch, Tawny Schultz, Jade Simpson, Alana Lauck, and the 4X400 Relay team of Allie Simpson, Paige Yi, Emillie Kenne, and Rachel Teague.

For field events, Mackenzie Siefken placed

first in shot put. Jade Simpson, Rachel Teague, and Connor Barber all tied for 2nd in the high jump at 4'10".

The girls' next meet is the Early Bird Relays on April 1st. Megan Gerhardt said, "I'm excited to dominate!"



Boys' track off to a great start

Alynnia Freeburg

The AHS boys' track team is well on their way to a great season. Their first track meet of the year was on Tuesday, March 16th, at the Iowa State Lead Centers 75 meter track in Ames. The boys who participated were Collin Fett, Austin Zadow, Dustin Rasmus, Travis Lenz, Derek Beaumier, Alex Kenne, Ryan McMahon, Michael McMahon, Joey Schattschneider, Michael Erpelding, John Etler, Johnny Aboud, and Sawyer Frideres. Chad

Rutledge is recovering from a sore foot that luckily, after X-rays, isn't broken. He will hopefully be seeing the track again soon. Some highlights of the evening were Ryan McMahon placing 7th in the 3200 meter run in 9:44:94 and Derek Beaumier receiving 27th place in the 3200 meter run, running a personal best of 10:24:00.

The second meet for the boys was the Mankato Indoor hosted by Algona and held at the MSU indoor

facility on Saturday, March 20th. There were four teams there including Algona, Garner-Hayfield, North Kosuth, and Spencer. Almost everyone from AHS who was not injured competed in Mankato. Luke Arrowood had a personal best in the high jump, jumping 5' 6". There were many first places for the Bulldogs: 3200 meter run, 400 meter, 4x200, 200 meter dash, 1600 meter medley relay, 800 meter race, 4x50, and long jump.

The next meet for the boys will be held at home on April 1st for the Early Bird track meet.

Silver cord hours

Audrey Schuttler

Algona High School holds a program called Silver Cord. This is where any student in the school can turn in their volunteer hours. To accumulate hours, you have to fill out a Silver Cord sheet telling what you did, what you learned, and how many hours you volunteered. You must also get the sheet signed by

someone who witnessed your volunteer work.

For seniors, all your hours must be turned in by May 3rd and for the underclassmen, May 14th is the last day to turn them in. You may still do hours past those dates but they go for next year's hours. However, hours done before the due dates cannot be turned in

next year. They will not count. In order to get the Silver Cord recognition at commencement, you must record 140 volunteer hours.

You can acquire hours throughout high school by helping with various events, like the State Solo Ensemble Contest. Other ways you can get hours are by helping with

church activities, RAGBRAI, and by calling the Chamber of Commerce. Feel free to contact Mrs. Bormann or Mrs. Hanson for questions.

Mrs. Bormann says that volunteering "helps you to learn the importance of helping others and starts a lifetime of helping. Communities can't survive without good volunteers."

AHS Speech= amazingness

Jenn Steven

On March 13th, students of AHS competed at the Individual Speech Contest at Sibley. At the competition, AHS had 26 entries. Out of those 26, 17 entries recieved Division I ratings. The people who recieved Division I ratings were: David Baxter for Improv and Solo Musical Theatre, Karina Haas for Storytelling and Original Oratory, Amanda Hamilton for Prose, Tommy Christian for Improv and Public Address, Clint McGuire for Spontaneous Speaking and Acting, Veronica Arndorfer for Reviewing and After

Dinner, Heidi Behnkendorf for Solo Musical Theatre, Hunter Buscherfeld for Solo Musical Theatre, Rob Bauer for Improv, Stella Arndorfer for Lit Program, and Abbie Atkinson for Original Oratory

From the Individual Speech Contest, there were 5 All-State nominations. The students who were nominated are David Baxter, Heidi Behnkendorf, and Clint McGuire. They will be representing AHS at All-State held in Cedar Falls at UNI, on March 29th.

Eggtastic Independent Living

Lynn Espinosa

Independent Living is a class to teach the students how to live on their own. Mrs. Bormann has taught them how to sew on a button, how to go apartment shopping, what to look for in a lease, how to clean clothing properly, and they are now starting the cooking section.

They just finished making their sewing projects. Some sewed fluffy stuffed animals, while others made tie blankets where they embroidered something on it.

Now Mrs. Bormann is teaching them to correctly measure out things by doubling the recipes and cutting the recipes in half. Jennifer Loudermilk, the "Egg Lady," made an appearance in the class on Monday, March 22. She is part of the Iowa Egg Council, where she goes

to places in Iowa and does demonstrations on eggs. "The demonstration that she lead was EGGTASTIC!" says Audrey Schuttler

The Egg Lady shared some information that not everyone knew. For example, eggs are still good for about four to six weeks after the sell by date on the carton, and that the little white things by the yolk when you crack open an egg is just twisted egg whites. Eggs are a good source of protein in your diet. She also shared that the one hundred pleats on the big white chef's hat said to stand for the different methods there are to prepare an egg.

So if you don't already eat eggs, you should think about eating them. They are healthy, tasty, and there are millions of possibilities for eggs.



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Special Olympians

Cody King

The Special Olympics took place in Iowa City last weekend, on Sunday, March 13th. There were over 900 athletes from all over Iowa competing in this year's events.

The students from AHS competed in the basketball skills portion. Three students from AHS competed. Brett Eden got a first place medal, Ryan Roberts

got fifth as did Byron Larson.

They got to stay at the classy Marriott hotel that weekend and they said that it was a blast. They had a lot of fun.

The Special Olympics motto is "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Congratulations Olympians!

NCAA Wrestling

Kyle Walker

The Division I Wrestling National Championships were held Saturday, March 20th, 2010, in Omaha, Nebraska. The state of Iowa was represented very well. The state of Iowa had 8 out of 20 wrestlers who wrestled in the finals and five were National champions.

The University of Iowa had three National champions. They were Matt McDonough at 125 pounds, Brent Metcalf at 149, and Jay Borschel at 174. Iowa State University had two National

champions; they were Jake Varner at 197 and David Zabriskie at heavyweight.

In the team standings, Iowa claimed their 3rd straight title with 134.5 points. Iowa claimed the title before the final round was wrestled. Cornell came in second with 90 points. Iowa State came in third with 75 points. Megan Simonson says, "I can't wait till next year so my brother can wrestle Varsity."

Boys golfers getting started early

Zach Plathe

Some of the boys' golf team got started early and spent March 11th through the 14th in Missouri golfing. The boys who went include Brad Hoskins, Alex Hagg, Zach Plathe, Blair Bradley, and Chris Grether. The guys' dads accompanied them on the trip and golfed with them. They went to Osage Beach, Missouri, which is known as the Lake of the Ozarks.

They played three different golf courses and they started at Sycamore Creek Golf Course on Friday. It is the number one rated public golf course in Osage Beach for the past seven years. It is an 18-hole course. On Saturday they played at Osage National Golf Course.

John Daly designed this course. It is three nine-hole courses in one. It is a private golf course. On the last day they golfed at another 18-hole course and it was at Old Kinderhook. This is a private golf course along with Osage National Golf Course.

The boys had a really fun weekend. The weather couldn't stop these guys. The weather was cloudy and rainy all weekend. The temperature stayed between 40-45 degrees. The boys still played great and had a lot of fun getting ready for the season to start.

They will start off their season against ELC at the Algona Country Club on Tuesday, April 13th.

Hitting the green

Natalie Hackbarth

The girls' golf team has two weeks of practice under their belts and they're anxious to hit the open course. Twenty-one girls are on the team this year and returning letter winners on the squad are Heidi Behnkendorf, Whitney Harms, AnnaLise Manske, Melinda Schultze, and Catherine Edgerton. Coach Dawn Bjustrom said, "We're hoping to have an

improved season with all of the returning letter winners this year."

The girls' first meet is on Tuesday, April 13, in Estherville. The girls spent their first week practicing at Bryant but warmer weather and melting snow has allowed them to hit the green.

March Madness

Adam Reimers

The NCAA college basketball tournament started on March 16th with the opening round. March Madness is a popular event, as all the college teams get a chance to become champs.

The top 5 seeds for the tournament were Kansas, Syracuse, Kentucky, and Duke. Kansas was the top number one seed until number 9 seed UNI beat them out.

The bracket goes first round

then the sweet sixteen and then the final four. Then it goes to the championship game. The radio was talking about doing another bracket because of all the upsets. The biggest upset was Kansas losing to UNI.

The championship game is on April 4th. It will be held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. "UNI owned up," said Sara Smith.

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And the water is Cop Out here

Travis Stone

Last week there was some excessive flooding down around K-Mart, McDonalds, and on the entrance of Bombgaars. The manager of Bombgaars, Don Christensen, painted a scale on the ditch of highway 18 of the levels of water Algona was supposed to get. Christensen also called

Redings to come put more than 200 tons of gravel in front of the building to protect it.

Just down the road, K-Mart hired a crew to sand bag around the entrance from the ditches and took clothes and everything on the bottom shelves off to prevent from water damage.

Triston Dacken

Cop Out, starring Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan, is a movie about two police officers who mess up a mission in which they are trying to arrest a known drug trafficker. They end up on suspension, which is bad for Bruce's character, Jimmy Monroe, because his daughter's wedding is coming up. But his partner, Paul Hodges, played by Tracy Morgan, has extra badges and guns in the car, so he doesn't have to tell his ex-wife and daughter that he is suspended.

To pay for the wedding, which ends up being very, very expensive, Jimmy decides to sell his Andy Pafko classic baseball card. When he goes into the pawnshop to sell it, the store is robbed and his card is stolen. So Jimmy and Paul

go on a mission to find his card and catch the robbers, which intertwines with their little shoot out with the drug guy earlier.

This movie is directed by Kevin Smith, stars Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan, but also has appearances by Sean William Scott, as one of the robbers of the pawnshop. It is 1 hour and 50 minutes long.

This movie is very funny but rated R for language, and rightly so. There aren't very many sentences that go by without a swear word of some sort, so the rating fits. However, the movie is hysterical. It is highly recommended, as long as you are not offended by strong language.

What's new in Hollywood?

Sara Ann Smith

The New Moon came out on DVD on March 20th. On this DVD there is a trailer for the third movie, *Eclipse*, that will come out on June 30th.

Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher got married; they had a small Jewish ceremony with close friends and relatives. They have a daughter, Olive, but have put off getting married for a long time.

In other relationship news, Heidi Montag fired Spencer Pratt as her manager but their marriage appears to be fine; pictures were taken of the couple in Malibu. Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens were some of the latest celebrities to help out with Haiti relief. It has also been said that the couple may soon be moving in together.

Kate Gosselin is on

Dancing with Stars season ten. It is doubted that she will win but they expect her to bring major ratings. It is controversial that Kate should be on the show because she has the responsibility of eight kids, but she just wants to know "why can't a mom have fun?" Also on the new season is Nicole Scherzinger, a member of the Pussycat Dolls. As everyone has seen in their music videos, she is a very good dancer, so does she have an unfair advantage?

Senior countdown

Nolyn Elliott

As the 2010 school year comes to an end, the seniors find themselves with only 34 days left of school, leaving the seniors' last day on May 13th. Semester tests for the seniors start on May 11th.

Scholarship applications for the Thompson, Mahana, Hoenk, Sefrit, and Dollars for Scholars are due by the 9th of April. Students need to get those scholarships in or they will miss out

on some free money.

Commencement rehearsal is on May 13th, along with the senior breakfast. The seniors motto this year is, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matter compared to what lies within us," by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Commencement will be held on May 16th at 1 o'clock P.M. Cody Fortune comments, "I'm going to miss my Cecil guy."

School News

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Algona High School Edited by: Jeni Zeller and Hannah Kadow Algona FFA events

Katelyn Seely

The Algona FFA will have their Annual Friends of the FFA Banquet on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, in the AHS commons. The evening will begin with a meal served by Vicki Gangsted and catered with steaks grilled by the Kossuth County Cattlemen. The Year in Review powerpoint will highlight the past year's activities of the FFA Chapter. The members will be receiving the awards that they have earned through the many activities of the past year. The highlight of the

evening will be the scholarship awards. This year there will be \$7,900 awarded to the six seniors who completed the FFA Scholarship application. The new officers for the 2010-2011 school year will be installed. The Algona FFA Alumni will then hold their annual scholarship auction. All of the auction proceeds are given as scholarships the following year.

The Algona FFA chapter will be attending the State FFA Conference on April 15 & 16 in Des Moines.

They will be attending workshops and helping the Iowa FFA Foundation as well as competing in Career Development events. Karl Nicolaus, Ryann Pearson, and Andrew Skallerup will be receiving their Iowa FFA Degrees and Kenzie Thomson will be competing in the FFA Idol and performing the FFA Talent during the 2nd General Convention Session.

The Algona FFA will be a part of the ceremony to dedicate the New FFA Enrichment Center on the

DMACC campus in Ankeny on Saturday, April 17. The Algona FFA chapter has donated funds for this facility for ten years. They were one of the first chapters in the state to answer the challenge of raising \$5,000 to kick off the fundraising for this new facility. Karl Nicolaus was the first Iowa FFA member to give a presentation in the new facility in January at the State FFA Alumni Conference.

Seniors...BACK2BACK!

Jessica Kuhlmann

On Thursday, March 18, 2010, AHS students prepared for the night's main event...Superstars. Superstars consists of various competitions among the grades and this year's theme was "Go for the Gold."

Seniors were dressed in black, juniors in red, sophomores were in blue, and the freshmen were in white. The seniors took the title for the second year in a row with 373 points, followed by the juniors with 334 points, sophomores with 241 points, and finishing in 4th place were the freshmen with 192 points. Through the night there were many events going on. Some were sign up events, but there were also many open events

The seniors started off strong by winning the class count with 71%, followed by the freshmen with 69%, then

the sophomores with 65%, and then the juniors with 58%. The seniors won many events like dodgeball for the 2nd year in a row. They also won the dance competition, talent show, and tire bridge for the 4th year in a row. Molly Cook said, "Natalie and I dominated putt-putt, and we had an awesome time!"

The juniors were trailing behind the seniors the whole night and they won the following events: quiz bowl, steal the bacon, human ladder, weird shuttle, chipping, and the swamp machine.

The sophomores won the beanbag toss, ski walk, and women's tug of war. The freshmen, being the new comers of the events, won the limbo, women's arm wrestling, and bingo.

Mr. Elsbecker and Mrs. Bjstrom led the closing

ceremony and they called out the results and awarded the seniors with the gold medal. Superstars was once again a successful event and was enjoyed by all participants and the community that came to watch.

6th period!

Megan Simonson

During 6th period Horticulture class the past couple weeks, the class has planted about 2,500 plants. There are many different varieties and colors of the plants, some of the plants are geraniums, dahlia figaro mixed, pansies, dusty miller, begonia, impatiens, colossus, Victoria blue salvia, and petunias. Some colors are: white, red, silver, purple, magenta, orange, yellow, blue, and pink.

The plants are stored in the greenhouse and one person waters them

everyday at the beginning of the class.

The class will be making planters for their mother, grandma, or loved one for Mother's Day. They will be making hanging baskets and posey pouches for the plants. There will be a plant sale open to the public May 3rd-8th. The small plants prices will range from \$1 to \$3 and the hanging baskets prices will range from \$15 to \$20. Ms. B. says, "It's been a fun experience and everyone is working hard and getting everything done."

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Hellooooo, Denver!!!

Kelsie Varvel

The Algona choir classes will be heading to Denver, Colorado, on Wednesday, March 31st, around seven in the evening and arrive home around 3 p.m., Saturday, April 3rd. Not all the students in the choir classes chose to go. Altogether 62 people are going. The group includes 7 adults and 55 students.

The group rented one bus, and ten people (eight students and two chaperones) will be flying by plane out of Minneapolis at 5:30a.m. They will arrive in Denver Thursday night. The

bus riders have a long but eventful 13-hour trip with only three stops.

The students will have a long, fun-filled couple of days. There will be a lot of sight seeing including Garden of the Gods; full of famous rocks including Balancing Rock and Kissing Camels. They will also tour the U.S. Mint, which is a tour of one of the only two areas in the U.S. that makes coins. The students will also see the Broadway hit *Mary Poppins*. "A lot of these kids, the juniors and seniors, went to New York. I don't want

the students to compare Denver to New York cause I believe Denver has a lot to offer," said Mrs. Mertz. The students will also have free time to do a little bit of shopping at the local mall. In addition, the students will be singing two songs while they are visiting in Denver.

The whole round trip cost \$509, this includes entry fees, busing/plane rides, hotel rooms, and most of the meals. There was no price difference for the students if they flew or rode the bus. Students had the chance to work concessions and sell

value cards so they could put the money towards the trip. Mertz said, "I wish we could stay longer, but we need to get the kids back in time for Easter."

Have a great time in Denver students. Represent Algona well, and most of all, be safe and have fun!

Did Someone Say

Murder?

Tessa Thompson

It's time for the spring play. This year the play is going to be a funny murder mystery called *Did Someone Say Murder?* This play is filled with fun characters and lots of plot twists.

There are a total of 16 parts and because there were so many auditions, there is room for extras. Ms. Elle says, "I was very excited that I had to do call backs because it let's me know I have an amazing senior class and it also lets me know I have amazing underclassmen ready for next year!" Auditions for the play were last week and callbacks were Monday night.

After call-backs the

decision was still hard but the main parts go to: Alex Kading, Karina Haas, Abbie Atkinson, Hunter Buscherfeld, Mikayla Torpy, Scott Haas, Morgan Coleman, Nicole Person, Heidi Behnkenndorf, Hailey Metzger, Jeff Schipull, Tommy Christian, Amanda Hamilton, Rob Bauer, Veronica Arndorfer, and Clinton McGuire.

The play will be performed on Thursday, May 13th, and Saturday, the 15th, at 7:30pm. at the Algona Middle School auditorium. This year's murder mystery will keep you guessing until the very end, and with such a large cast, it should have a great turn out!

Solo Ensemble Festival

Allison Kajewski

Algona High will be hosting the class 3A Iowa High School Music Association's State Solo/Small Ensemble Festival. On Saturday, March 28, over 500 performances will be held at ten different performance centers in the high school. The groups can contain anywhere from 1 to 24 members.

When the musicians perform, the judges will give them a written evaluation and then they will receive anywhere from a Division I, the best, to a Division

V, the worst, rating. They are rated in seven to eight different areas of musical performance.

They perform from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and the doors are open to the public. It is free of charge to get in; however, they will accept free will donations. If you see any band or choir members in the halls on Friday, make sure to wish them good luck on Saturday. JoHanna Degen said, "I hope everyone does well, good luck!"